

Fieldwork Activities Progressed

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, October 1, 2006, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated 100% adequate. Temperatures averaged near normal across most of the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation for the week. Weekly rainfall averaged 0.99 inches north, 0.40 inches central, and 0.55 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.60 inches at Newton on September 28, 2006 to September 29, 2006. Agricultural producers continued to harvest vegetables, field crops, and plant small grain crops. Harvest of potatoes, beets, broccoli, cabbage, kale, cauliflower, lettuce, peppers, squash, and pumpkins progressed. Pepper and squash harvest neared completion in some southern localities. Pumpkin damage, due to phytophthora, was reported in the southern area. Pumpkin quality was variable across the state, and some fields in the south were disced. Planting of small grain crops continued across the state. Mowing and baling of hay continued. Hay condition was rated fair to good. Soybean harvest continued with some producers waiting for the crop to dry down. Corn harvest for silage was completed in some areas of the north and central districts. Corn and soybean condition was rated mostly fair to good condition. Apple harvest continued. Apples rated mostly good condition. Cranberry harvest progressed, and color continued to develop. Grape harvest continued in the south. Pasture was rated fair to good condition.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR OCTOBER 2, 2006

Apples – Fresh product is a week to ten days earlier than normal this season and is available now through the New Year. Jonathan and Cortland finishing up. Red Delicious, Empire, Jonagold, Macoun are being picked now. Golden Delicious, Rome, and Stayman Winesap starting later on this week. Braeburn, Fuji, and Granny Smith will start mid to late October.

Apple Cider – Available until Christmas in wholesale volume, through late Spring for retail sales.

Arugula & Cilantro – Harvesting good quality and quantity with the cooler temperatures.

Baby Arugula & Baby Spinach – Harvesting good quality and quantity.

Basil – Harvesting a light quantity of fair to good quality product with the cooler temperatures. Available until frost.

Beets – A good volume of good quality product is available.

Broccoli – Harvesting later on this week in Central Jersey.

Cabbage – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product.

Cranberries – The main harvest of fresh market dry harvested berries has begun.

Dill & Parsley – Harvesting good quality and quantity.

Cucumbers/Pickles – Harvesting a good quantity and quality of Cukes and Pickles (Kirby cucumbers).

Eggplant – Harvesting excellent quality Italian and Asian varieties in fair to decreasing quantity. The Fall brings out the best in this vegetable.

Escarole/Endive – Harvesting good quality product in good volume.

Green Beans – Harvesting in good quality and quantity.

Greens - Good quantities of fair to good quality Collards, Kale, Mustard, Dandelions, and Swiss Chard.

Leeks & Green Onions – Harvesting in good quality and quantity.

Lettuces – The harvest is two weeks later this Fall. Harvesting good quality Boston and Romaine in light to increasing quantities. Just starting the harvesting of Red & Green Leaf.

Peppers – Harvesting a light volume of good quality product. We also have an excellent assortment of good quality hot peppers available.

Pumpkins – Downy mildew set in early this year in some fields due to another cool and wet Spring. Then a dry August was followed by incessant rains. Growers that haven't been spraying all season will have problems. Know your grower! These will be hard to source in Jersey this year.

Radishes & Turnips – These temperature sensitive vegetables have begun harvesting again in good quality and fair to increasing quantity, with volume expected by the end of the week for Turnips.

Squash – Harvesting a good quantity of great quality zucchini. Most of our butternut and acorn were harvested before the recent wet weather and stored for curing and better prices.

Tomatoes – A very light quantity of fair to good quality rounds available as some late plantings are harvested. Winding down.

SPINACH – Weather related issues caused later planting and slower growth than normal. Harvesting a fair to increasing quantity of good quality product.

Sweet Corn – Harvesting a light to decreasing volume of fair to good quality corn. Quantity and quality varies now due to recent severe weather and annual Fall insect pressures.

Sweet Potatoes – Harvesting good quality potatoes in good volume.

White Potatoes – Tapering off of the Superior round variety and transitioning into the Reba variety in good quantity and quality. Source your New Jersey white potatoes in their distinctive "Jersey Fresh" bags.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Brussel Sprouts & Cauliflower – Should begin harvesting by the middle of October in Central Jersey.